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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: S. MAEDA et al.  
Serial No.: 09/294,137  
Filed: April 20, 1999  
For: DEFECT INSPECTION METHOD AND APPARATUS  
Art Unit: 2621  
Examiner: B. Werner

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 10, 2002

Sir:

An amendment was filed on March 11, 2002, in the above-identified application in response to the non-final Office Action of October 11, 2001. The applicants had not received an Office communication responding to the amendment of March 11, 2002, as of the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement, such that, as far as could be determined, this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted on or before the mailing date of a final Office Action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(c).

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(c) and 1.98, attached hereto are copies of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,791,586 and 4,805,123; a copy of Japanese reference 61-212708 (including an English abstract); and a form PTO-1449 listing these three references.

Also listed on the form PTO-1449 are Japanese references 55-74409 and 8-10463. Copies of these two references (the copy of Japanese reference 55-74409 including an English abstract) were submitted on April 20, 1999, when the present application was filed, together with a sheet entitled "Information under 37 CFR 1.56(a)" listing these two references. A copy of this sheet signed by the Examiner to indicate that these two references have been considered was attached to the Office Action of October 11, 2002.

However, more complete citations of these two references have been provided on the attached form PTO-1449, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner provide a copy of this form PTO-1449 initialed by the Examiner to indicate that these two references have been considered with the next Office communication, and that the Examiner draw a line through the listing of these two references on the copy of the sheet entitled "Information under 37 CFR 1.56(a)" in the application file so that the sheet entitled "Information under 37 CFR 1.56(a)" will not be used in printing any patent which may issue from the present application to avoid confusion, errors, and duplications in printing the "References Cited" section of such a patent.

Japanese references 55-74409 and 8-10463 are cited on page 1 of the specification.

Japanese reference 61-212708 is cited on page 23 of the specification.

U.S. Patent No. 4,791,586 is a U.S. counterpart of Japanese reference 61-212708.

U.S. Patent No. 4,805,123 is a U.S. counterpart of Japanese reference 8-10463.

Japanese references 55-74409, 61-212708, and 8-10463 are not in the English language.

The concise explanation of the relevance of Japanese reference 55-74409 required by 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3)(i) is provided by the English abstract of this reference, and by the discussion of this reference in the specification as permitted by the last sentence of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3)(i).

The concise explanation of the relevance of Japanese reference 61-212708 required by 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3)(i) is provided by the English abstract of this reference; by U.S. Patent No. 4,791,586 which is a U.S. counterpart of this reference; and by the discussion of this reference in the specification as permitted by the last sentence of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3)(i).

The concise explanation of the relevance of Japanese reference 8-10463 required by 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3)(i) is provided by U.S. Patent No. 4,805,123 which is a U.S. counterpart of this reference, and by the discussion of this reference in the specification as permitted by the last sentence of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3)(i).

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(c), as far as could be determined, this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted on or before the mailing date of a final Office

Action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(c)(2), submitted herewith is a credit card payment form in payment of the fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be considered.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.37149X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments